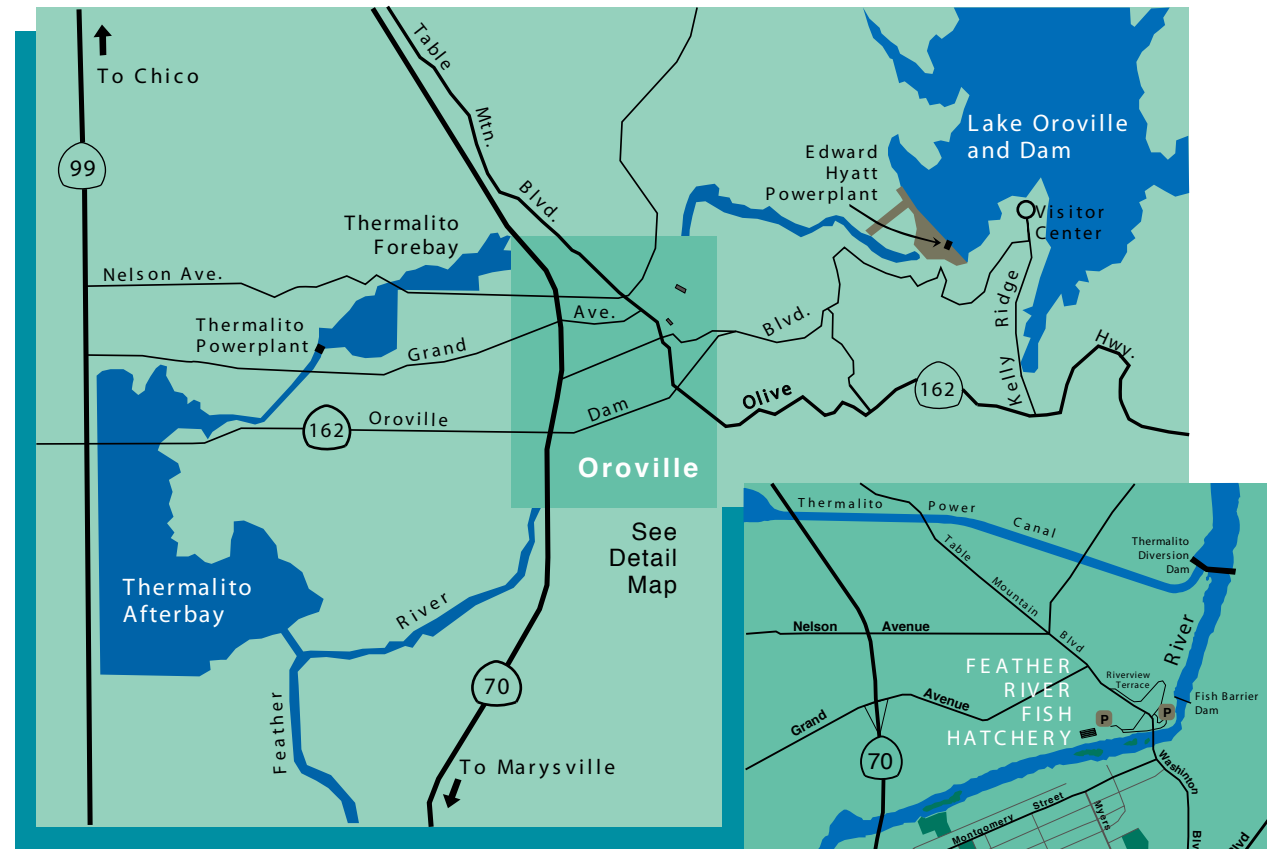


# LIFE CYCLE OF CHINOOK SALMON



**OROVILLE - THERMALITO COMPLEX**

The Feather River Fish Hatchery is part of the Oroville-Thermalito Complex, which includes Lake Oroville and Oroville Dam, Hyatt Powerplant, Thermalito Forebay and Afterbay, power canal, powerplant and diversion dam. The complex is an integral facility of the Department's State Water Project, which delivers water for agriculture, cities and industries, and provides flood control, recreation, water quality improvement, fish and wildlife protection and hydroelectric power.

**RELEASE SITE**

As hatchery fish reach the right size and age, they are transported in oxygenated, temperature-controlled trucks to release sites near Benicia. By releasing them closer to the Pacific Ocean where they will grow and mature for the next two or three years, the salmon have a better chance of survival.

Hatchery releases are done almost daily from May through September. Releases depend on number of fish, trucks, and staff available as well as the weather.

When the salmon return to spawn, they instinctively travel through the Delta, up the Feather River to the hatchery. Scientists tend to agree that the salmon's ability to smell the homestead water draws the fish to return to their place of birth.

